



**Minutes of the 2013 AGM of the Transport Economists Group held
on 27th March 2013 at 5:00pm**

Present: Julie Mills (Chair)
Gregory Marchant (Treasurer & Membership Secretary)
Dick Dunmore (Secretary & Webmaster)
Laurie Baker
Stephen Bennett
Peter Gordon

1. Apologies for absence

Dick Dunmore announced that apologies for absence had been received from Scott Clyne.

2. Minutes of the 2012 AGM held on 28th March 2012

These were reviewed and no material corrections or matters arising identified.

Stephen Bennett proposed and Peter Gordon seconded acceptance of the Minutes.

ACCEPTED

3. Chair's Report

Julie Mills presented her report for 2012.

All the regular meetings had been held at the Arup Headquarters in Fitzroy Street. She thanked Arup for their generous provision of excellent facilities and Scott Clyne and colleagues for their organisation.

Attendance had ranged from 25 to 40 with an average of 31, slightly more than in 2011. The varied programme had dealt with bus, public transport ticketing, car, smarter choices and rail, with talks on rail topics tending to be most popular.

There had been three issues of the Journal edited by Peter Gordon.

The Group's activities were now regularly publicised via LinkedIn and Twitter, with 185 and 275 followers respectively.

Tim Griffiths would be standing down from the Committee due to pressure of work but it was hoped that he would be able to return. Julie thanked the retiring Committee for their work.

Julie also thanked Melanie Buchan for her work as administrator.

Laurie Baker noted that this appeared to have been a good year.

Gregory Marchant thanked Julie for her work as Chair.

Laurie Baker proposed and Stephen Bennett and Gregory Marchant seconded acceptance of the Report.

ACCEPTED

4 Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Gregory Marchant began by reporting that the Community Account figure shown in the Balance Sheet presented at the 2012 AGM had been transcribed incorrectly. Stephen Bennett, the auditor, confirmed that the underlying 2011 accounts were correct and that the error was one of transcription and recommended that the 2011 accounts remain as presented. The 2012 accounts include the correct figures for 2011 and a note of the correction.

Gregory summarised his report and the audited accounts for financial year 2012, which had been available on the website for inspection.

2012 had been a straightforward year, with no extraordinary items. Membership had held up, with a total of 178 at the end of 2012, 3 more than at the end of 2011. Subscriptions had been increased for 2012 in line with inflation and this had resulted in increased income. There were no immediate proposals for a major change to the structure or level of subscriptions. The overall financial position was comfortable.

Dick Dunmore asked whether the Financial Principles adopted in 2008 should be reviewed or updated. Gregory and Stephen Bennett confirmed that they remained appropriate and that the reserves are very prudent.

Stephen Bennett stated that one issue for 2013 would be the credit card system. Only 11 members had to date used it to pay their subscriptions, but a number of attendees might be expected to request payment by credit card for any future seminar.

Peter Gordon asked whether it would be possible to use PayPal more. Gregory confirmed that this was possible but that it would ideally be linked through the website. Dick Dunmore said that this would require some changes and, potentially, more technical knowledge, making it more difficult to manage and update the website.

Julie Mills proposed and Peter Gordon seconded acceptance of the Report and Accounts.

ACCEPTED

5 Appointment of auditors

Gregory Marchant thanked Stephen Bennett for his audit services and confirmed that he had invited him to continue as auditor. Stephen confirmed his willingness.

Julie Mills proposed and Laurie Baker and Peter Gordon seconded acceptance of the motion.

ACCEPTED

6 Election of the Committee

Julie Mills reported that Tim Griffiths had announced his intention to stand down from the Committee but all the other existing members had offered themselves for re-election.

Dick Dunmore reported that there had been no other nominations or offers.

The Committee offering itself for re-election or election therefore consisted of:

Scott Clyne	Dick Dunmore	Peter Gordon	Gregory Marchant
Julie Mills	Gerard Whelan		Tom Worsley

Stephen Bennett proposed and Laurie Baker seconded the re-election of these existing Committee members.

ACCEPTED

Dick Dunmore reported that the new Committee would elect Committee members to specific posts at the next Committee meeting on 9th May 2013.

7 Any other business

Publicity

Julie Mills reported that publicity seemed to be sufficient for the ultimate purpose of maintaining membership and meeting attendance, both of which had risen slightly. She maintained details of attendance on a spreadsheet allowing analysis of patterns including the proportion of guests.

Seminars

Julie Mills reported that it remained the intention to hold a seminar in alternate years and that preparations had been made for a seminar on roads reform. Continued delays in emerging policy had meant that this was not yet timely, but it remained the view of the Committee that this topic should remain the priority, with a seminar to be held as soon as appropriate.

Stephen Bennett requested that this information be drawn to the attention of the March meeting following the AGM.

Debates

Julie Mills said that meetings could be discussion-based rather than a presentation followed by questions. The February 2013 meeting “Can good economics take the politics out of transport?” had taken the form of introductory speeches followed by a debate, and attendees had been invited to provide feedback on this format.

Dick Dunmore reported that only one response had been received. This suggested that the meeting was successful and that to use this format once or twice a year would be stimulating. It was noted, however, that neither introductory speaker seemed fully committed to their cause, and that the Chairman had revised the question before the debate proper. An alternative might be to have two more opinionated speakers and a vote on the persuasiveness of their views.

Stephen Bennett noted that, while the February 2013 debate had included many good contributions from the floor, it should be possible to invite and incorporate written submissions.

Julie Mills confirmed that the Committee would consider these points.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 5:32pm.